

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 H-03 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 DOTE-00

DRC-01 /179 W

----- 118558

R 280725Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8700

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS TOKYO 4050

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: UAW PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT AUTO IMPORTS; JAPANESE PRESS
REACTION

REF: STATE 58180

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 15, TWO JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT
UAW REQUESTED ALLJAPAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY WORKERS UNION TO
"SOUND OUT" JAPANESE AUTO MANUFACTURERS ON POSSIBILITY OF LATTER'S
ADOPTING VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS TO U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE PRESS (NIHON KEIZAI, NIKKAN KOGYO, MARCH 15) REPORTED
THAT UAW REQUESTED ALL-JAPAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY WORKERS UNION TO
"SOUND OUT" JAPANESE AUTO MANUFACTUERS ON POSSIBILITY OF
LATTER'S ADOPTING VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS TO U.S. UNION
CHAIRMAN ICHIRO SHIOJI SAID TO HAVE INFORMED JAPAN AUTOMOBILE
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MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (JAMA) PRESIDENT EIJI TOYODA (ALSO

PRESIDENT, TOYOTA MOTORS) OF UAW PROPOSAL ON MARCH 14. NIHON KEIZAI QUOTED TOYODA AS SAYING THAT THE UAW MOVE IS "PROBABLY INEVITABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE U.S. WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT IS GROWING IN THE AUTO INDUSTRY" BUT THAT "IT IS HOPED THAT THE MOVE IN THE U.S. TOWARD RESTRICTION OF IMPORTS WILL NOT EVENTUALLY MATERIALIZE. THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY WILL WATCH THE MOVES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS FOR THE TIME BEING."

3. EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN NIHON KEIZAI ARTICLE EMPHASIZED DIFFICULTIES SUCH A DEVELOPMENT POSES FOR DOMESTIC INDUSTRY IN VIEW ITS HOPES TO INCREASE EXPORTS THIS YEAR TO COMPENSATE FOR LAGGING DOMESTIC SALES, THE CURRENT WEAKENED PRICE COMPETITIVENESS OF JAPANESE AUTOS VIS-A-VIS AMERICAN CARS IN THE U.S. MARKET, AND THE EXPORT DRIVE LAUNCHED BY VOLKSWAGEN. ARTICLE STATES THERE IS "STRONG" FEELING IN U.S. CONGRESS THAT "IMPORT RESTRICTION DOES NOT MAKE SENSE WHILE THE BIG THREE AND OTHERS ARE ACTIVELY ADVANCING INTO OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD" (SOURCE OF QUOTE NOT INDICATED) AND SPECULATES THAT UAW MAY HAVE PROPOSED VOLUNTARY CONTROLS TO INSURE SOME RELIEF IN EVENT OF DEFEAT ON LEGISLATIVE FRONT.

4. NIKKAN KOGYO ARTICLE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO UAW CASE, POINTING OUT THAT ALTHOUGH PROBLEMS SEVERE IN AUTO INDUSTRIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES, SITUATION MORE SERIOUS IN U.S. SINCE UNEMPLOYMENT HAS ACTUALLY RESULTED. ARTICLE STATES THAT SOME KIND OF

COOPERATION FROM JAPAN MAY BE NECESSARY BUT SPECULATES THAT VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS WOULD LIKELY INVITE DEMANDS FOR SAME FROM EUROPEANS.

5. UAW PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTROLS REPORTED BY NIHON KEIZAI TO PROVIDE FOR RESTRICTION JAPANESE EXPORTS TO 1973 LEVELS. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, IMPORT QUOTAS, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO04050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740067-0599
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974036/aaaaafmg.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 58180
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UAW PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT AUTO IMPORTS; JAPANESE PRESS REACTION
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, JA, US, UAW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005